



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

The Regional Accreditation Cooperation of the Americas and its Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangements

October 2005





The Inter-American Accreditation
Cooperation (IAAC) is a

Regional cooperation of accreditation bodies of

Certification bodies

Inspection bodies

**Testing and Calibration
Laboratories**



IAAC History

- Regional Cooperation of Accreditation Bodies in the Americas
- Created in 1996 in Montevideo, Uruguay
- Legally established in Mexico as a Civil Association (Non Profit Organization) in 2001
- IAF and ILAC member



IAAC's mission

- To facilitate commercial exchange among the nations of the Americas
- To develop and maintain Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) among IAAC Members
- To achieve recognition as a Regional Cooperation by IAF and ILAC



IAAC's mission

- To promote international acceptance of the accreditations granted by the accreditation member bodies
- To promote acceptance of certificates and reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies through established MLAs



IAAC Activities

- Harmonize the criteria for the operation of member accreditation bodies, based on relevant ISO/IEC international standards and guides
- Facilitate the exchange of information between IAAC members IAF and ILAC members
- Promote cooperation in training of assessors and other personnel of accreditation bodies



IAAC Activities

- **Represent members at regional and international accreditation meetings**
- **Encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of standards, guidelines and application of documents developed by relevant international bodies**
- **Support the development of accreditation bodies in the region**

Membership

- Full Members 20
- Associate Members 7
- Stakeholder Members 10

Total Membership 37



FULL MEMBERS

Argentina – OAA
Brazil - INMETRO
Canada - SCC
Chile - INN
Costa Rica - ECA
Cuba – ONARC
Ecuador - OAE
Guatemala – OGA
Mexico – ema
Panama - CNA
Paraguay – ONA
Peru – INDECOPI
El Salvador - CONACYT
USA - A2LA, ACLASS,
ANAB, IAS, NVLAP
Uruguay - OUA
Venezuela - SENCAMER

IAAC Members



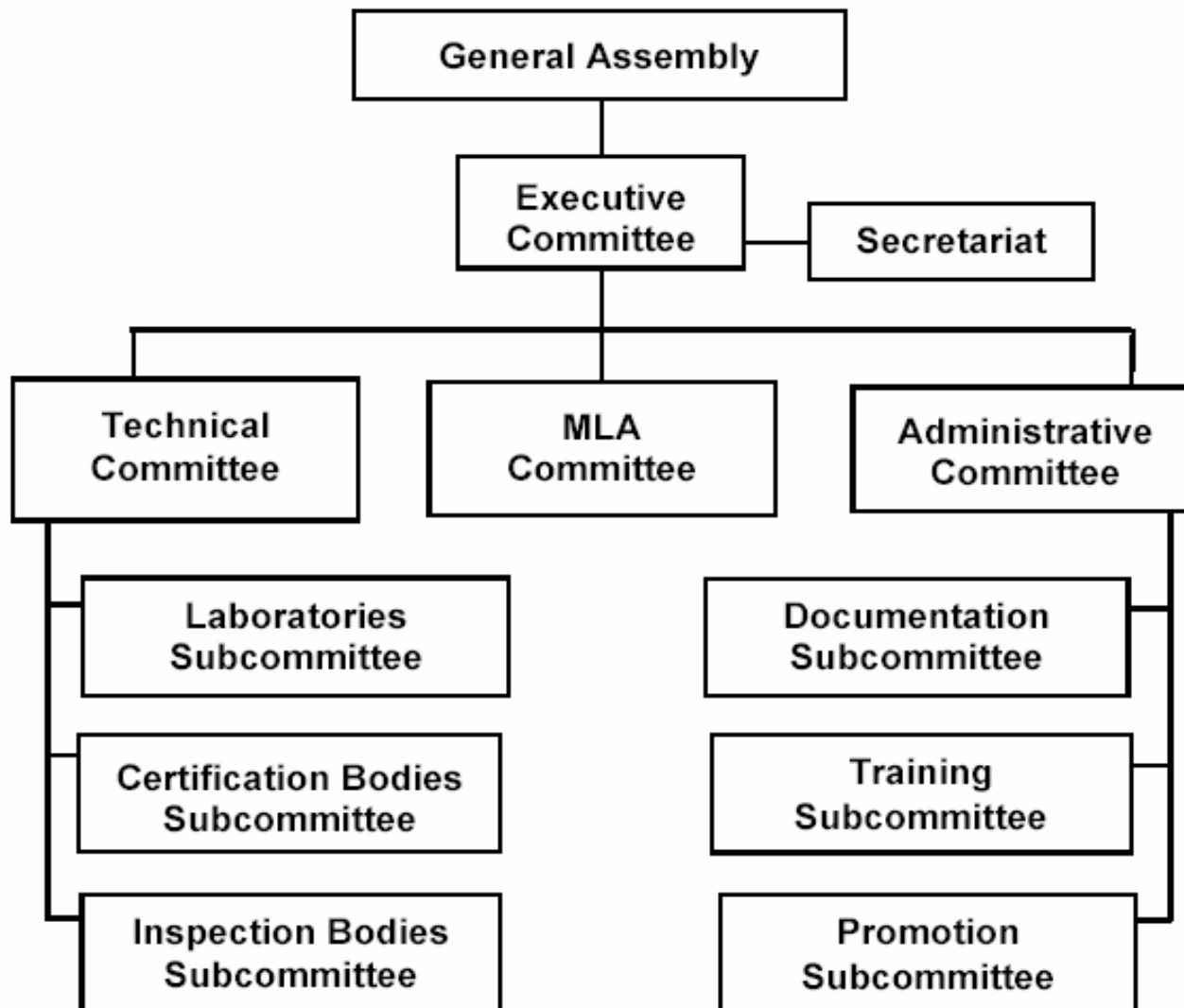
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Andean Community
COPANT
Ecuador - INEN
Honduras - COHCIT
Nicaragua - ONA
Trinidad & Tobago
USA - ASCLD-LAB

STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS

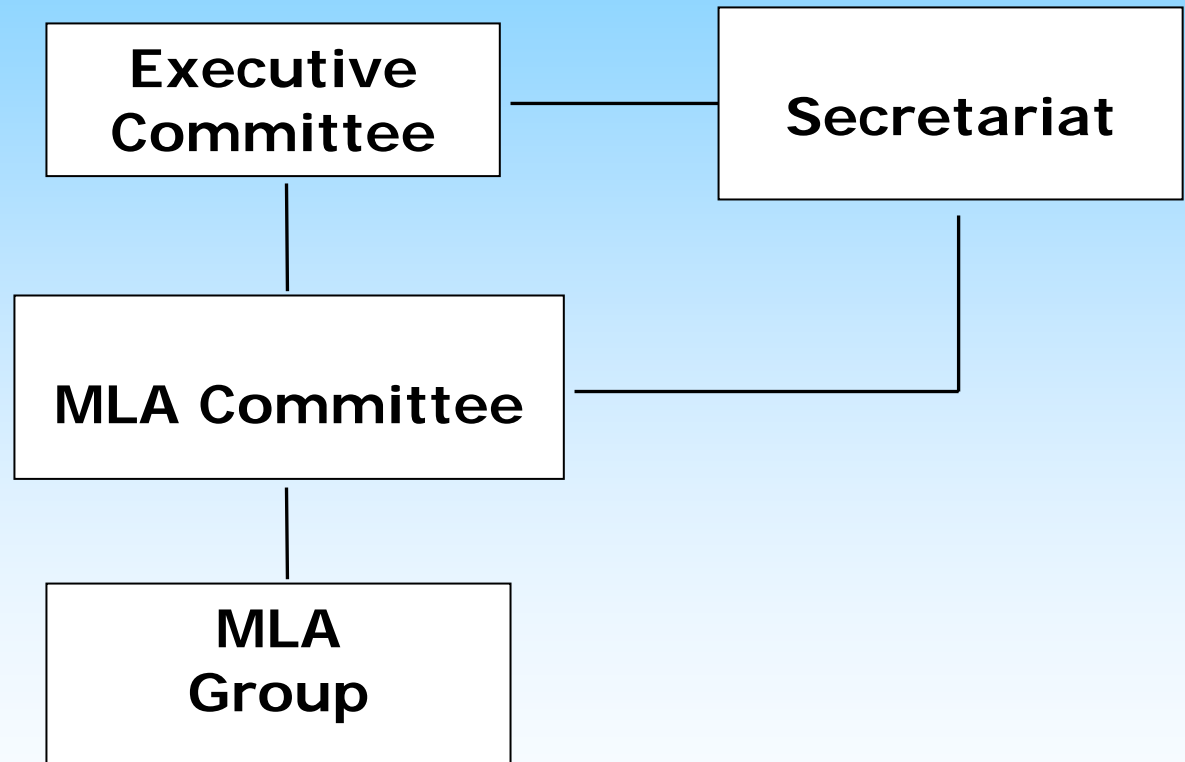
Argentina - IRAM
Bermuda – Lab.
Colombia-ICONTEC
Dominican Rep.
Montserrat – Lab.
Mexico – ANCE,
IMNC, IQS, NYCE
USA - ITS

IAAC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





IAAC MLA STRUCTURE





CURRENT IAAC PROJECTS

IAAC – OAS

OAS: Organization of American States

Evaluations, witnessing of IAAC Evaluations, internships, consultancies, courses, proficiency testing programs

IAAC – IDB

IDB: InterAmerican Development Bank

Awareness, training, evaluations, internships, proficiency tests, technical assistance

IAAC – PTB

PTB: Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt

Peer evaluator training, proficiency testing, courses

What is Accreditation for?

- **To recognize competence based on internationally accepted criteria**
- **For specific tasks**
- **Performed by an accreditation body that is independent and impartial**
- **To Provide trust**

Accreditation applies to:

Conformity assessment bodies:

- Certification Bodies
- Inspection Bodies
- Laboratories



Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)

**In order to become an MLA signatory the
Accreditation Body must:**

- Receive a peer assessment**
- Demonstrate that it is correctly applying the established criteria for an accreditor of laboratories, certification bodies, and inspection bodies**



Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)

- **The conformity assessment bodies accredited by an MLA signatory are as competent as those accredited by any other MLA signatory**





The Benefits of IAAC MLA for Suppliers:

- Regional and International Recognition**
- Reduction of Assessments**
- Increased Access to International Markets**
- Legal obligations may be satisfied**



Benefits of IAAC MLAs for Accreditation Bodies:

- Provide International Peer – Assessment process for recognition of Conformity Assessment Structures in the Regulated Field**
- To Support negotiation between Regions in Conformity Assessment Issues**
- Less Cost for the Suppliers in Product Testing and Certification in the Regulated Field**



IAAC MLA Scope:

Accreditation bodies which accredit:

- **Testing and/or Calibration Laboratories**
- **Certification/Registration Bodies
(QMS, EMS, Product and Personnel)**
- **Inspection Bodies**



IAAC MLA SIGNATORIES

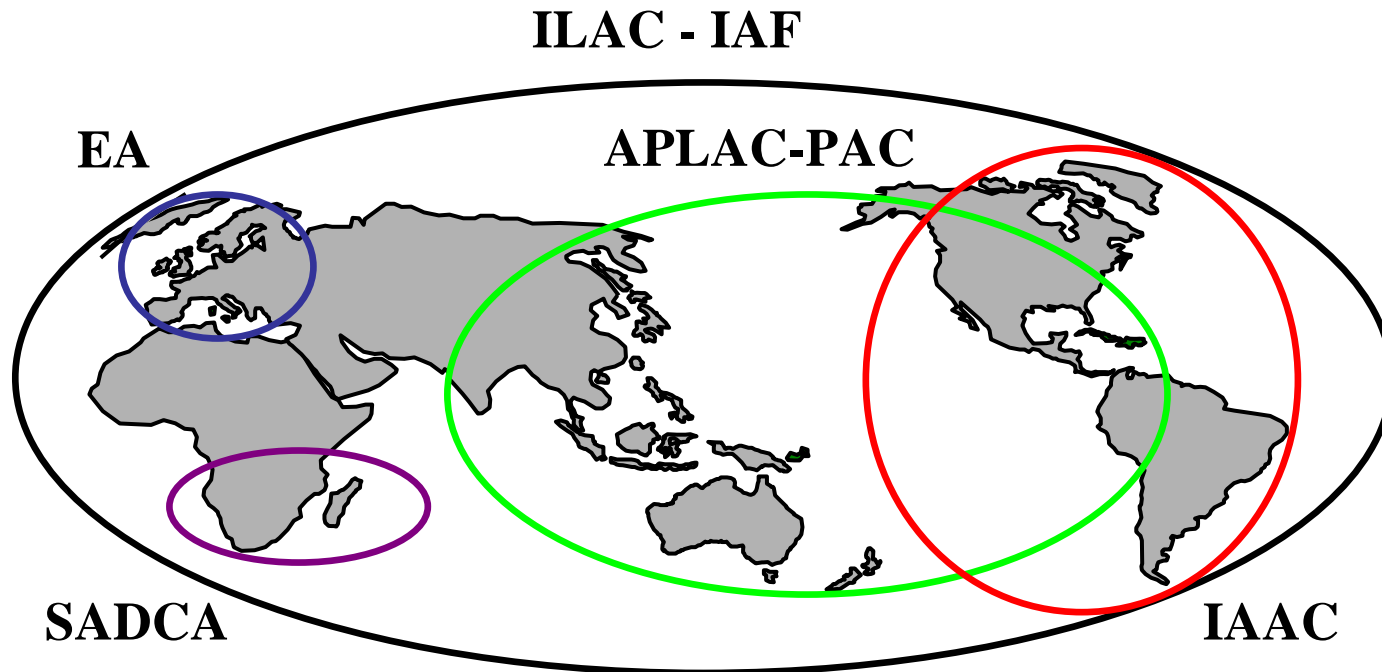
		Testing & Calibration Laboratories	Q M S Certification
OAA	Argentina	✓	✓
INMETRO	Brazil	✓	✓
SCC	Canada	✓	✓
ONARC	Cuba	✓	-
ema	Mexico	-	✓
A2LA	USA	✓	-

Today the IAAC MLA is a reality for Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Mexico and the USA, our intention is that in the near future all the countries in the Americas become signatories.

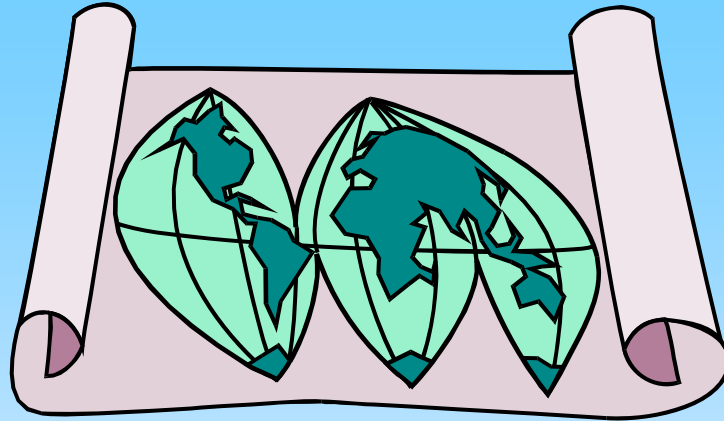




Global Accreditation Snapshot



EA	European Cooperation for Accreditation
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
PAC	Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
SADCA	Southern African Accreditation Cooperation



- **The accreditation systems facilitate international acceptance, thus stimulating countries to participate in the world economy**
- **The association of countries in regions allows for a more efficient operation**

IAAC Evaluation by IAF and ILAC

- ILAC & IAF evaluated IAAC in March 2004
- IAF-ILAC to witness an IAAC evaluation in early 2006
- IAAC to close all non-conformities and be ready to sign the IAF and ILAC MLA by end of 2006





International Recognition of IAAC MLAs



OUR GOAL:

**Sign the IAF and ILAC MLA by
2006**





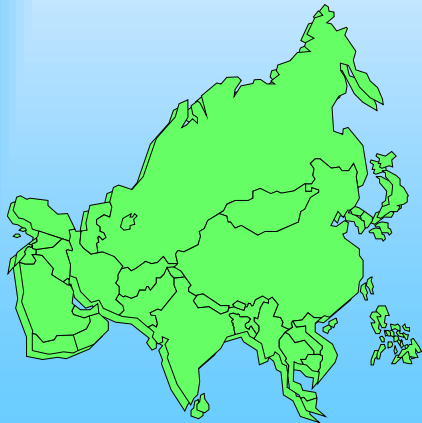
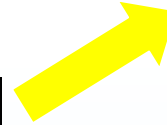
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE IAAC MLAs

BENEFITS:

- **Strengthen the Region of the Americas**
- **Overcome Technical Barriers to Trade**
- **Comparable Systems with other regions**
- **Smaller costs with the same trustworthiness**
- **Knowledge transference**



Global acceptance of products





Greetings from IAAC!





For more Information contact:

Victor Gandy

Executive Secretary

secretariat@iaac-accreditation.org



www.iaac-accreditation.org